

- 5 -

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1-3, 6-13 and 15-18 are canceled and claims 4 and 14 are amended. The amendment places the application in immediate condition for allowance and should be entered into the record. Withdrawal of all pending objections and rejections is requested for the reasons noted below.

Withdrawal of Notice of Appeal

Applicants hereby request the withdrawal of the Notice of Appeal filed on October 22, 2004. Applicants request a refund in the amount of \$340.00. Please deposit these refunded fees into Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that claims 4, 5, and 14 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 4 and 14 are amended to independent format to include the subject matter of claim 1 and any intervening claims. Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 15-18 are canceled. This amendment places the entire application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants

- 6 -

hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to **Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Calderon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew M. Calderon
Reg. No. 38,093

McGuireWoods LLP
1750 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102-4215
Tel: 703-712-5426
Fax: 703-712-5285

06580008AA

\\COM\424096.1